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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01214 131159Z

44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 MED-03 L-03 CU-04 SNM-02

ABF-01 OPR-02 OS-03 PER-05 A-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 DEAE-00 IO-14 JUSE-00 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 DRC-01 /147 W
---------- 014201
P 131043Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7685

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 1214

PASS TO DR. BOURNE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SAODAP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: S/NM
SUBJECT: NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION CENTER - VIENTIANE

1. OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH DETOXIFICATION CENTER OVER PAST YEAR TOGETHER WITH YOUR RECENT VISIT, DR. PETER BOURNE'S RECENT VISIT AND DR. WESTERMEYER'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS HAVE PROVIDED MISSION EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY RE-EXAMINE PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION CENTER. CONCENSUS AMONG MISSION PERSONNEL AND DOCTORS IS THAT FOR OPTIMAL OPERATIONS DETOXIFICATION CENTER SHOULD HAVE FACILITIES FOR INPATIENT AS WELL AS OUTPATIENT CARE. THIS WILL REQUIRE ADDITION OF SECOND FLOOR TO PLANNED BUILDING CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 50 BEDS AND TREATMENT ROOMS FOR INPATIENT CARE.

2. INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT HAS RESULTED IN REDUCTION OF NARCOTICS SUPPLIES AND A RISE IN THEIR PRICES. THIS IN TURN HAS PRECIPITATED ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR TREATMENT FROM ADDICTS. A
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01214 131159Z

LARGE PROPORTION CURRENT CASE LOAD ARE OLDER ADDICTS

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WITH ASSOCIATED MEDICAL PROBLEMS REQUIRING HOSPITALI-
ZATION. ALSO INCREASING NUMBER OF ADDICTS SEEKING CARE
ARE FROM OUT OF TOWN CREATING HOUSING AND SURVEILLANCE
PROBLEMS IN ENSURING ADEQUATE TREATMENT. INPATIENT
FACILITIES WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS. CURRENT
AND PROJECTED HOSPITAL BED SPACE IN VIENTIANE INDICATES
A CONTINUING SHORT SUPPLY SO THAT INPATIENT
TREATMENT OF ADDICTS IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS IS DIFFICULT
TO OBTAIN. FACILITY WILL BE DESIGNED IN HARMONY WITH
OVERALL LONG-TERM PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT MAHOSOT
HOSPITAL AND WILL MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF MAHOSOT ANCILLARY
FACILITIES.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER, SECSTATE FOR HEALTH, AND OTHER
RLG OFFICIALS SUPPORTING NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PLACE A
HIGH PRIORITY UPON EXPANSION OF DETOXIFICATION CENTER
TO INCLUDE MORE INPATIENT TREATMENT. EXPANSION WILL
PROVIDE THEM ADDITIONAL BASIS UPON WHICH TO REFUTE
ALLEGATIONS BY THOSE LAO FAVORING REPEAL OF THE RLG
ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW. ALLEGATIONS ARE THAT USG ONLY
CONCERNED ITS OWN ENDS OF NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AND
USG WILL ABANDON THE WELFARE NEEDS OF LAO AT EARLIEST
POSSIBLE MOMENT WHEN THESE ENDS ATTAINED. THIS IS NOT,
REPEAT NOT, PRIME MINISTER'S OPINION, BUT HE HAS BEEN
SPECIFIC IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ME ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS
POTENTIAL THREAT TO OUR JOINT ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.
IT IS FELT THAT PROPOSED EXPANSION CENTER IWLL COM-
PRISE VISIBLE PROOF INTENT RLG AND USG TO AID LAO ADDICTS
AS ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW IS IMPLEMENTED AND DEMONSTRATE
A COMMITMENT TO THIS ENDEAVOR IN FUTURE YEARS.

4. FY 1973 FUNDS ALREADY OBLIGATED FOR CONSTRUCTION
AND EQUIPPING DETOXIFICATION CENTER TOTAL $216,000.
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF ENLARGED CENTER INCLUDING
INPATIENT FACILITIES IS $530,000. THUS AN ADDITIONAL
$314,000 IS REQUIRED. TO MEET THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR
THE EXPANDED DETOX CENTER DISCUSSED ABOVE, MOST RECENT
REVIEW OF OUR FY74 NARCOTICS PROGRAM BUDGET INDICATES
THAT WE CAN REALLOCATE FROM OTHER PROGRAMMED ITEMS
(PERSONNEL, TRAINING AND SOME COMMODITIES) $200,000 OF
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THE ADDITIONAL $314,000 NEEDED.

5. BASED ON MY DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR HANDLEY
DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT THE
PROPOSED EXPANDED DETOX CENTER BE APPROVED AND THIS
MISSION'S NARCOTICS BUDGET BE INCREASED BY THE ADDITIONAL
$114,000 REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE EXPANDED FACILITY.
WHITEHOUSE

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